

British Values – Psychology

In Psychology, British values are learnt through lessons that encourage students to explore a range of explanations and theories about human behaviour. As psychology takes a universal approach to understanding human behaviour, we consider differences between people including stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination and what the possible causes for these are. We also address diagnosing mental illnesses and the differences between 'Western' cultural norms and non-western, thereby developing a more informed understanding of mental health. The students are encouraged to understand how differences between cultures need to be recognised and how difficult it is to fully understand people from different culture.

Democracy

- The democratic process includes the rights and responsibilities of people. These rights and responsibilities are fundamental to psychologists whose research must be passed by an ethics committee before being conducted. Students undertake a research project and have to consider the ethics of their research, as well as the ethical implications for the participants and the group of people their participants represent.
- Democracy is also related to the right to express opinion and allow for social change. The mechanisms underpinning social change are a key part of the social influence topic in Psychology.
- The classic studies of Romanian orphans in the attachment topic allow students to consider what some of the consequences may be of a regime not built on democracy.
- Students are required to objectively evaluate whether behaviour is the result of free will or determinism; and the implications of this.

The Rule of Law

- The rule of law relates to codes of conduct designed to protect individuals and groups. Psychologists must abide by the ethical code of conduct set out by the British Psychological Society. As students undertake a research project, they are expected to also abide by the code of conduct.
- As part of their study of Psychology, students are encouraged to critically evaluate whether research adheres to the scientific method and to consider why this matters in a wider social context.
- Through the study of obedience and conformity students explore why it is that individuals are likely, or in some cases unlikely, to follow the rule of law.

Individual Liberty

- Psychology is concerned with the motivations of human behaviour and develops theories and subsequent research to help us to understand how, and why, individuals make decisions.
- Through the study of approaches in Psychology students are encouraged to see that, whilst we may all be similar in many respects, there are always anomalies in human behaviour that cannot be predicted.
- The humanistic approach in Psychology places value on individual responsibility, believing that it is our own free will that governs our actions.

Mutual Respect for, and tolerance of, people with different beliefs and views

- There are many different 'schools of thought' in Psychology e.g. behaviourist, social learning, biological, cognitive and psychodynamic. Students critically evaluate these approaches, noting culture and / or gender bias issues.

- The skill of evaluation in psychology requires students to draw on a variety of different evidence when developing their discussion.
- Students are exposed to a range of theories in Psychology that have developed from preceding theories. In this way students appreciate how having opposing views can help with the development of Psychology as a science.
- Through studying psychopathology, students learn the importance of not labelling a person based on a diagnosis but to rather consider the mental illness as only a part of what it means to be that person.
- The study of cognition and development considers the development of thinking, morality and sociability and how society shapes us as well as the value and reasons behind an ordered society. The study of aggression and social influence considers reasons for not following social norms and explores how an understanding of psychological theory attempts to prevent and treat those who have deviated from the norm.